

Blood-Stream Infection (CDC)

From: Alan M Stamm [astamm@uab.edu]
Sent: Thursday, November 05, 2009 9:54 AM
To: Blood-Stream Infection (CDC)
Subject: comment on draft guideline

The evidence cited for use of chlorhexidine impregnated dressings is over-valued. The “largest multicenter randomized trial to date” (reference 156) did not employ all of the basic, first-line steps that are recommended: 2% chlorhexidine was not used for initial skin preparation or with dressing changes. This trial does not provide any evidence that adding a chlorhexidine impregnated dressing is of any benefit if the skin is prepared with chlorhexidine. In this study, antiseptic or antibiotic impregnated catheters were not used. This trial provides no evidence that adding a chlorhexidine impregnated dressing is of any benefit if a chlorhexidine / silver sulfadiazine impregnated catheter is being inserted.

Alan M. Stamm, M.D.
Professor of Medicine
Hospital Infection Control Officer
University of Alabama at Birmingham